

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. No claims have been amended. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. Claims 21-45 have been added. Therefore, claims 21-45 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sivakumar et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,031,990 ("Sivakumar"). Applicants submit the rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-20. Nevertheless, the present claims are patentable over Sivakumar.

Sivakumar discloses a test management system that creates test cases that are used to verify the correctness of one or more functions of a software application. A test case is a procedure that verifies a certain function of a software application and records the result. See Sivakumar at col. 2, ll. 56-62.

New claim 21 recites generating a first test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit. As described above, Sivakumar discloses the testing of software application functions. Therefore, Sivakumar does not anticipate claim 21. Claims 22-30 depend from claim 21 and include additional limitations. Therefore claims Sivakumar does also not anticipate 22-30.

Claim 31 recites a routine causing a processor to generate a first test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 21, claim 31 is also not anticipated by Sivakumar. Since claims 32-40 depend from claim 31 and include additional limitations, claims 32-40 are also not anticipated by Sivakumar.

Claim 45 recites a test builder to generate test programs to test the functionality of an integrated circuit. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 21, claim 41 is also not anticipated by Sivakumar. Because claims 42-45 depend from claim 41 and include additional limitations, claims 42-45 are also not anticipated by Sivakumar.

Claims 5, 11-13, 16-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sivakumar et al., in view of Slutz, U.S. Patent No. 6,138,112 ("Slutz"). Applicants submit that the above rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-20. Nonetheless, the present claims are patentable over Sivakumar even in view of Slutz.

Slutz discloses a test generator for testing database management systems (DBMS) applications. The test generator checks the correctness of the DBMS implementation of the language by which it interfaces between databases and users of the databases. See Slutz at col. 3, ll. 61 – col. 4, ll. 5. Consequently, Slutz does not disclose or suggest generating a test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit.

As discussed above, Sivakumar does not disclose or suggest generating a test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit. Therefore, any combination of Sivakumar and Slutz would also not disclose or suggest generating a test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit since neither reference discloses such a limitation. Because a combination of Sivakumar and Slutz would not disclose or suggest generating a test program to test the functionality of an integrated circuit, the present claims are patentable over any combination of Sivakumar and Slutz.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: _____

7/3/02



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Marked Version to Show Changes Made
Insertions are underlined, deletions are bracketed.

1-20. (Cancelled)

21-45. (New)

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